Refusal of MSP on cotton by Maharashtra to farmers

2578. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra is refusing to give the cotton farmers of Maharashtra at the time of the Purchase more than 80 per cent of the Minimum Support Price of cotton fixed by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) The Government of Maharashtra has decided to purchase the cotton of the cotton growers in Maharashtra at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government of India and 100% payment is being made.

Study on impact of liberalized import of agricultural products

2579. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to assess the impact of liberalized import of agricultural products on Indian agriculture; and

(b) if so, the deails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There has been no comprehensive study on the impact of liberalized imports of agricultural products on Indian Agriculture. However, some quick sectoral studies have been conducted to analyze the likely impact of liberalized imports on edible oils. The studies suggest that formulation of policies in respect of calibration of import duties on edible oils, application of new technology to increase production and productivity in oil sector and provision of marketing support to oilseed farmers should be linked to the Indian proposals in the WTO Agriculture negotiations. Recently the Government has brought out a study entitled 'State of the Indian Farmer: A Millennium Study', as a part of which "Globalization and Agricultural Liberalization in India" has also been studied. Based on various measures of import and export competitiveness, the study concludes that most of the important agricultural commodities in India are competitive and that India can withstand competition from abroad with respect to the import of most of the crops, at the current levels of tariffs.